पर्यावरण और वन मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री कमल नाथ) : (क) जी, नहीं ।

(ख) और (ग) प्रश्न नहीं उठता ।

Environmental Conditions in Mega cities

1108. SHRI JAGMOHAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made an overall assessment of the environmental conditions in 23 Mega cities of the country;

(b) whether this assessment reveals highly unsatisfactory conditions which are causing great hard to public health; and

(c) what precise measures, legislative as well as administrative, are in hand to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) The Central Pollution Control Board has carried out intensive surveys in 23 cities to assess Water and Air Pollution problems. To assess the pollution load, surveys were carried out for waste-water generation, ambient air quality and noise pollution.

(b) Under the National ambient air quality monitoring programme, the ambient air quality is being monitored in 23 cities for suspended particulate matter (SPM), sulpherdioxide and oxides of nitrogen. It has been observed that the levels of pollutants measured are within the ambient air quality standards. However, at occasions, levels of SPM were higher than the standards because of natural dusty conditions.

(c) Steps taken to control pollution by the Government are as follows:-

(i) Effluent and emission standards have been prescribed under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986;

(ii) A network of ambient air quality and ambient water quality monitoring stations have been set up;

(iii) Environmental guidelines have been evolved for siting and operation of industries;

(iv) Industries have been asked to comply with consent requirements of the state Pollution Control Board to keep the discharge of effluents and emissions within the stipulated limits;

(v) Fiscal incentives are provided for installation of pollution control equipment and shifting of polluting industires from congested areas;

(vi) A scheme has been initiated to give assistance to clusters of small scale industrial units as well as local bodies for setting up common effluent treatment plants.

(vii) A time-bound action plan for control of pollution from the 17 categories of polluting industries has been prepared in consultation with the State Governments.

Torture of Indian Diplomat by Pakistan

1109. SHRI RAGHAVJI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of India recently expelled one Pak diplomat and one Pak Official for espionage activities and for activities incompatible with their status and without any physical and mental torture to them;

(b) if so, the details thereof;